

Application No. 09/998,221
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933/

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

According to the present invention as recited in claim 1, a printing method is provided for printing an optically readable dot code on a printing medium by means of printing plates. As recited in claim 1, the method comprises a first step of printing the code on the printing medium, using a first printing plate and a first ink, and a second step of forming a code coat covering the code on the printing medium by printing, using a second printing plate and a second ink having a property of not affecting the operation of reading the code.

As explained in detail in the specification of the present application, with this method a dot code may be printed without encountering offset doubling (see Fig. 1) and without affecting the reading operation of the dot code. See, in particular, the disclosure at page 24, line 20 to page 25, line 8.

By contrast, as explained in the Background of the Invention section of the present application, JP 11-263062 ("Saito et al") discloses two possible procedures for avoiding offset doubling. First, as shown in prior art Fig. 6 of the present application, Saito et al discloses waiting to print the code (K2 plate) until last. Alternatively, as shown in prior art Fig. 7 of the present application, Saito et al discloses first printing the code with

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the K2 plate, then allowing the plate to dry, and then printing characters, lines and color image data over the printed and dried code dots. With the first technique, problems are encountered in which the codes cannot be printed properly, while the second technique of Saito et al requires an extra step of drying the code, thereby increasing the cost of printing.

It is respectfully submitted that neither of these techniques disclosed in Saito et al corresponds to the method of the claimed present invention which comprises first printing the code on the printing medium, using a first printing plate and a first ink, and then forming a code coat covering the code on the printing medium by printing, using a second printing plate and a second ink having a property of not affecting the operation of reading the code.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in claim 1, and claims 2-4 depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over Saito et al, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

RE: PRIORITY DOCUMENT

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the certified copy of the priority document, which was filed with the original application papers, and which was received by the USPTO and entered in the IFW of the present

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application. See the attached copy of the first page of the certified copy fo the priority document, which was printed out from the IFW of the present application and which bears a USPTO stamp.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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別紙添付の書類に記載されている事項は下記の出願書類に記載されている事項と同一であることを証明する。

This is to certify that the annexed is a true copy of the following application as filed
with this Office

出願年月日
Date of Application: 2000年12月13日

出願番号 Application Number 特願2000-378986

願 人
Applicant(s): オリンパス光学工業株式会社

**CERTIFIED COPY OF
PRIORITY DOCUMENT**

2001年 6月28日

特許庁長官
Commissioner,
Japan Patent Office

及川耕 丈

出証番号 出証特2001-3061038